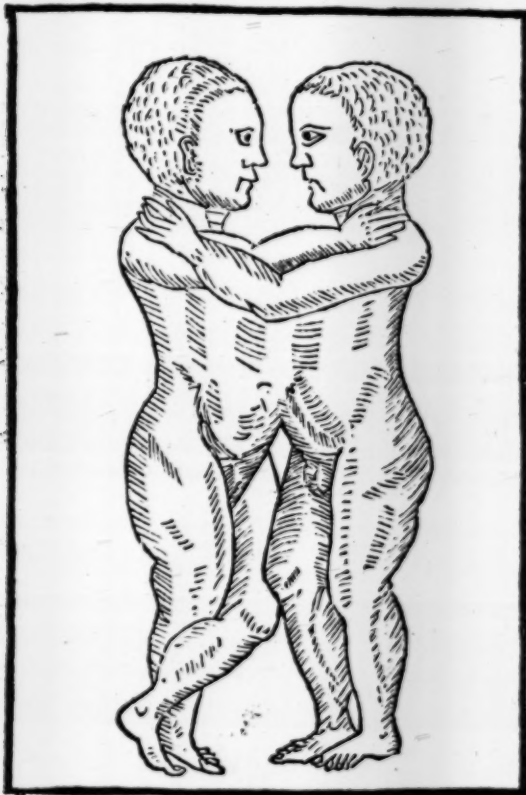


The true description of two monstrous children,

lawfully begotten betwene George Steuens and Margerie his wyfe, and borne in the parish of Swanburne in Buckyngham shyre, the .iiij. of Aprill. Anno Domini. 1566. the two children hauing both their beltes fast toynd together, and imbracyng one an other with their armes: which children wer both a lyue by the space of half an hower, and wer baptized, and named the one John, and the other Joan.



I Read how *Affrique* land was fraught
for their most filthy life,
With monstrous shapes, confuzedly
that therein wer full rise.

But England now pursues their byle
and detestable path,
Embracyng eke all mischæfs great
that moues Gods mightie wꝛath.

As these vnnaturall shapes & formes,
thus brought forth in our dayes:
Are tokens true and manifest,
how God by dyuers wayes:

Doth shꝛe vs to amendment of
our byle and cankered lyfe:
Which to to much abused is,
in man, in chylde, and wyfe.

We wallow so in filthie sin,
and naught at all regarde:
For wyl not feare the thꝛeats of God
tyll we for iust rewarde:

Be ouerwhelmd with mischæfs great,
which ready bent for vs
Full long ago decreed wer,
as Scriptures doth discus.

Both tender babes & eke brute beastes,
in shape disformed be:
Full manie wayes he plagues the earth,
(as dayly we may see)

Thus mightie Ioue, to pearce our harts
these tokens straunge doth send,
To call vs from our filthie lyfe
our wicked wayes t' amend.

And thus by these two children here,
foze warnes both man and wyfe:
How both estates ought to bewayle,
their vile and wꝛetched lyfe.

For sure we all may be agast,
to see these shapes vnkynnd:
And tꝛeblyng feare may pearce our harts
our God to haue in mynd.

For yf we pꝛinted in our bꝛest,
these signes and tokens straunge:
Wold make vs from our sinnes to shꝛike
our liues a new to chaunge.

But some proude boastyng Pharisee,
the parents wyl detest:
And iudge with heapes of vgly vice
their liues to be infect.

No no, but lessons for vs all,
which dayly we offend:
Pea more perhaps, then hath the frænds,
whom God this birth did lend.

For yf you wyl with single eye,
note well and view the tert:
And marke our Sauours aunswer eke,
that thereto is annert:

Where his disciples asked him,
to know therein his mynd:
Yf greater wer the parents sinnes,
or his that was borne blynd.

To whom Christ aunswered in a bꝛest,
that neither he, nor they:
Deserued had that crooked fate,
although they sin each day.

FINIS. q. *John Mellys Nor.*

But to the end Gods glorie great,
and miracles diuine:
Might on the earth apparaunt be,
his workes for to define.

Such lyke exampls moued me,
in these forgetfull dayes:
To rue our state that vs a mong,
vice beares such swings and swayes.

Wherein the godnesse great of God
we way and set so light:
By such exampls calling vs,
from sin both day and night.

Where we doe runne at random wyde,
our selues flatteryng styl:
And blaznyng others faults and crimes,
yet we our selues most yll.

But if we doe consider right,
and in euen balaunce way:
The ruine great of hartie loue,
among vs at this day:

And well behyld with inward eyes,
th'embracyng of these Twynnes:
That God by them vpbaydes vs for
our false dissemblyng sinnes.

We wold with penitence repent
our former passed peares,
Bewaylyng eke our secret sinnes
in sacke cloth and in teares.

Therefore in time amend your state,
and call to God for grace:
Bewayle your former lyfe and sinnes,
while you haue time and space.

Imprinted at London by Alexander Lacy, for William Leues: dwelling in Cow lane
about Holborne cundit, ouer against the signe of the Plough.